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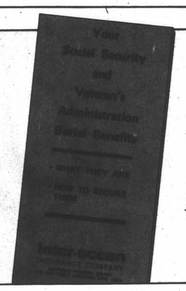

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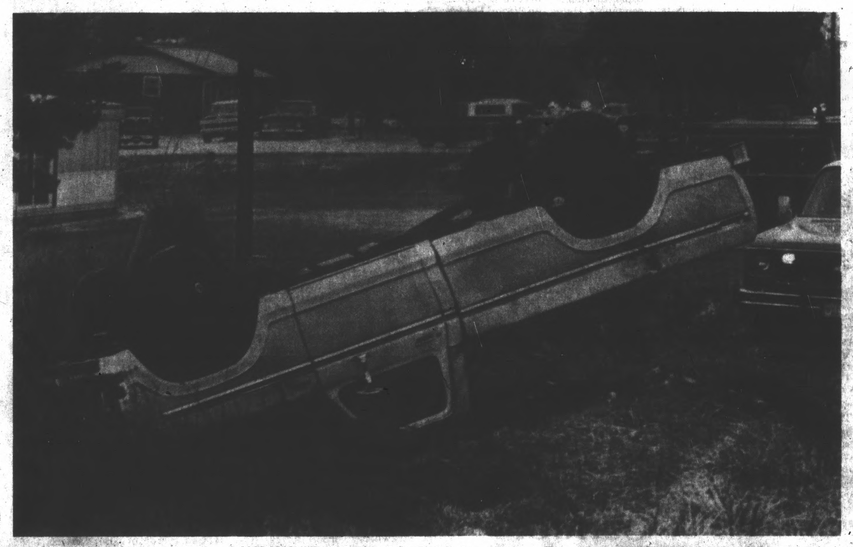
Volume 92 - Number 4 | Deadline: 2 p.m. Tuesday | Appomattox, (Va.) - Times-Virginian - January 27, 1983 | Phone: 352-8215 | One Section - 10 Pages

JAN 1983



Icy Roads

A MADISON HEIGHTS MAN escaped serious injury when the truck he was driving went out of control and overturned on an icy road near Concord Saturday evening. Irvin Grayson Maddox of Route 7, Madison Heights, was not hurt but his truck sustained heavy damage in the accident, which occured about a tenth of a mile south of Road 609 on Road 608. Police report that the accident, which was reported around 4:30 p.m. Saturday, was apparently the result of icy road conditions. (Photo by Jeff Spitzer)

In Appomattox Schools

Funding reductions won't hurt programs

Gov. Charles S. Robb's proposed reduction to basic school aid funding for the 1983-84 fiscal year should not have any drastic effect on educational programs in Appomattox County according to Lloyd Walton, superintendent of schools.

Walton points out that the programs currently in effect in Appomattox County will continue next year. The only impact that the governor's proposed school budget reductions might have would be in the rate at which new programs are introduced in Appomattox County next year, Walton says.

"You must remember that the governor's proposed reduction is actually a reduction in an increase," Walton explains.

The state general assembly had already approved the basic school aid formula for the biennum, according to Walton.

"Originally, the budget called for Appomattox County to receive $1,944,194 or $1467 per student," said Walton. "The governor's proposal would reduce the amount to $1426 per student, a total of $1,878,804. The total in school aid reduction would be $65,390 according to these figures," Walton indicates.

"Rather than increasing the basic school aid from $1320 (this year's figure) per student to $1467 per student, the increase would be from $1320 per student to $1426 per student," the superintendent says.

"We're still talking about an increase of $106 per student in basic school aid for the 1983-84 year," Walton says.

The governor's proposed school-aig budget reduction amounts to a total of approximately $40 million, about half of which is state-supplied money and half of which is local funds.

In Appomattox the ratio of state-to-local funds used in figuring the county's basic school aid budget is "favorable to the county", according to Walton. He notes that the current local share of the school aid fund is approximately 37 percent. "The lower the locality's share of the school aid figure, the more a reduction in the school aid funding hurts," according to Walton.

Walton notes that several programs in Appomatox County have been instituted to "help improve the efficiency" of the school system.

"The renovations at the primary, elementary and middle school will all result in considerable savings in energy funds," Walton notes.

In addition, there will probably be a reduction of two teachers in grades K through 6 next year, due to declining enrollment, according to Walton.

"Steps we've taken in the past and will continue to take have resulted in a greater degree of efficiency in the school system," Walton notes.

"While the governor's proposed reduction in school aid funds will mean that there will be very limited funds for greater increases, (in new county school programs) next year, we will be able to continue to provide a good, quality instructional program for Appomattox County children, Walton concludes.

Appomattox County ranks low in highway fatalities

Appomattox County with only four traffic fatalities in 1981 ranked 60th in the state according to figures just released by the Department of State Police in Virginia's Traffic Crash Facts, 1981.

There were 907 fatal crashes in Virginia in 1981 in which 1,012 persons were killed. For each person killed there were 59 persons injured; for each pedestrian killed there were 12 pedestrians injured.

In 32.5 percent of all fatal crashes, speed, either excessive or too fast for conditions, was a contributing factor.

During 1981 in Virginia there were 117,981 crashes involving 197,980 vehicles. With 1,280 vehicles involved in fatal crashes, 80.5 percent were of Virginia registration. 82.2 percent of the vehicles involved in all crashes were insured.

Women constituted 31.9 percent of the drivers involved in all crashes in Virginia but only 18.8 percent of those involved in fatal crashes.

There have been no traffic deaths recorded for the Town of Appomattox for the period 1974 until 1981.

For the Town of Pamplin, there have been no traffic deaths from 1973 to 1981.

In the County of Appomatox, there were three traffic deaths in 1980 with Appomattox County ranking 33, while in 1981 there were four traffic deaths i the county with Appomattox County ranking 60th.

Approximately 89.3 percent of all reported crashes indicate that some violation of a traffic law occured and 56.5 percent of all drivers involved were reported in violation.

Although no accurate figures are available as to the number of miles driven each year by drivers in various age groups, the best estimates indicate that the very young and very old drivers are involved in a disproportionate share of crashes. The tabulation for Virginia indicates that 1,934 drivers under the age of 16 were involved in crashes and four of these drivers were involved in a fatal crash.

In the 65 year and over age group 8,978 drivers were reported in crashes and 71 of these were involved in fatal crashes. The dangerous drivers' age group fell in the25-34 age group, with 49,290 drivers involved in crashes of which 356 were fatal.

It was reported that 19.4 percent of the drivers involved in all crashes in 1982 and 36.2 percent involved in fatal crashes were known to have been drinking. In rural areas, involvement was 20.8 percent in all crashes and 37.7 percent in fatal ones.

Legion schedules fundraiser

American Legion Post 104 will hold its annual sale of 1984 calendars and other advertising materials used as promotional items in business on Wednesday, Feb. 2, in the American Legion Building.

The public is invited to view the display from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday evening only.

This is a major fund-raising project for the local American Legion. You pay the same price you would pay any other representative for this type of promotional material and the Legion benefits only from the saleman's commission.

Legion officials request businesses who purchase this type of material to visit the display or call 352-7138 for further information.

Adult-ed classes slated

Registration for second semester adult education classes will start this week. Adults who are interested and who want to participate in classes that are being offered the second semester by the Appomattox County School Division are requested to register now by calling 352-8253 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. or by mailing in a registration form. Please look at the class schedule located elsewhere in this issue of the Times-Virginian for information concerning classes offered.

"It is very important that persons pre-register for classes", states R. B. Carter, Coordinator of Adult Education. "Pre-registration is used to determine whether enrollment is sufficient to offer a particular class. An enrollment of ten persons is required for a class to be offered.

Persons who desire information concerning an adult class are requested to contact the School Board Office by calling 352-8253.

Lions Club to meet

The Appomattox Lions Club will meet on Thursday, Jan. 27, at 6:45 at the Country Fare Restaurant.

Guest speaker for the evening will be Don Jimison, Center Director for the Holiday Lake Educational Center.

Members are urged to attend.

Wrestling show set

Professional wrestling will be featured in the Appomattox County High School gym next Monday (Jan. 31), starting at 8:15 p.m.

There will be six all-star matches in all, including Greg Valentine vs. Roddy Piper, Dorey Funk, Jr., vs. Sweet Brown Sugar, Paul Jones and Red Dog Land vs. Jerry Brisco and Bob Orton, Jr., and Mike Rotondo vs. Jim Nelson, a telebvision title match.

The event is being sponsored by the Athletic Boosters Club. Proceeds will be used to help fund school athletic programs.

Tickets are on sale at the Appomattox Rexall Drug Store, and at Appomattox Truck and Tractor.

Dog licenses now on sale

Dog licenses for 1983 are on sale and must be purchased by the Jan. 31 deadline, according to the Appomattox County Treasurer's Office.

The licenses still cost $2 each, and dog owners are required to birng their dogs' rabies vaccination certificates, complete with expiration date, in order to obtain a dog license.

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

Seems to me that lately there has been a lot of time spent in just waiting around. Waiting for February weather to arrive. Waiting for the Redskins and Cowboys, the Dolphins and Jets to go at each other in football. Waiting to hear about "The State of the Union." Waiting for the Russian satellite to land. Waiting for Va. Tech to win a big game. Waiting for Spring. Ah yes, waiting to see what Billy Martin will do with the New York Yankees this time. Waiting for more jobs to be available. Waiting to see if North Carolina wins the national basketball title. To see where Ralph Sampson will play next year if he becomes a pro. Waiting to hear from the sick. Waiting in line at the store. Make your own waiting list and end it with "Waiting for my ship to come in."

* * *

A few days ago the weather forecast was for an overnight low of ten degrees. So I took my car to nave the radiator checked to see if the antifreeze was ample. 'Twas. But as I was leaving the checking garage, a black cat ran across the highway in front of me. Drove home very cautiously. Nearing my front door I glanced down and found a dime. Did not fall to ten degrees that night. Who can explain the mysteries of life, or show that it is necessary to explain them. I have learned to just plug along.

* * *

Many people have developed their own rules. I have a friend who has two trees in view from his place of work and if he spots a dark cloud coming up from over those particular trees, he knows it is for real.

* * *

Notepad item. Very, very tall extension ladder against the court house as workmen attended to some repair. No way I could have climbed that ladder.

* * *

One thing most of us can do while waiting for Spring to arrive is to get ready for all the things needing to be done, around our home, our street, our town, our county.

Near Tangier Island in the Chesapeake Bay, a barge loaded with corn sank. I imagine the soaked corn would arise to the surface and the ducks, gulls, etc. had a feast.

Grocery carts were loaded lately as shoppers were stockpiling in event of ice and sleet.

* * *

Current Virginia Commonweath magazine has a long write-up about Moses Malone, the Petersburg basketball player who jumped to the big time directly from high school. And in the same magazine, an ad for a Princess Diane doll, selling for a mere $356, plus tax and $9 shipping. Looks good.

* * *

Many of us are saddened by the death of Dr. Mervyn Williamson. I first knew this distinguished Appomattox County native right after World War II. He wrote to his home county newspaper from prison camp in Rumania. Had to bail out when his plane was shot down. Later he studied in Texas, won his doctorate degree, became a minister and professor at Lynchburg College. He was an authority on Peter Francisco, famous Revolutionary giant. Belongs in the top flight of distinguished Appomattox citizens.

* * *

Thanks for reading. Seeya around.

APPOMATTOX LIONS CLUB members were treated to a rousing speech by Eric Bartle (left), 24B District Governor, at the local club's meeting Jan. 13. Other Lions officials present at the meeting included (from left) Art Strader, deputy district governor; Lyle Garrett, zone chairman; Mercer Motley, past district governor; Richard P. Chaffin, District Governor, 24E; and Floyd Williams, Appomattox Lions Club president.